Prostitution exists in almost all cultures and civilizations of the world today. Just as the cultures differ richly from one another, prostitution and prostitution policy vary greatly throughout the globe. Although the act of prostitution itself is widely similar all over, the policies that are affecting the sex trade are the most influential in shaping the unique and individual sex industries of different countries. This paper takes a look at two very different countries with very different cultural value systems within them. Not surprisingly their perspectives on prostitution differ significantly as well. These two nations are Canada and Thailand; classic examples of Western culture and Eastern culture. I have found no study that suggests that prostitution is more prevalent in either culture, but in general prostitution carries less of a social stigma in Eastern Nations, especially Thailand, than it does in the Western Nations. ✓ very interesting!

To begin with I shall examine the specific prostitution legislation within each country, but as I shall soon see the difference between legislation and practice is remarkable. Although prostitution has existed for thousands of years, laws controlling the nature of the sex trade are only a few hundred years old. An epidemic of sexually transmitted disease in 16th century Europe, led to the first serious efforts to control prostitution, as public health considerations demanded further regulatory legislation. Morality and cultural ethics have also played a huge role in determining the position of prostitutes in society. When analyzing the difference between the Canadian sex trade and the Thai sex trade, it is extremely important to keep in mind how Judeo-Christian ethics form the foundation of the Canadian policy. ✓ good!

Although the written laws against prostitution are relatively clear, the overall goal of Canadian prostitution is not. There is no prohibition of the buying and selling of sexual services. This is what makes the Canadian law on prostitution unclear. A set of codes has been created so that it would be very difficult for a person to prostitute without breaking the laws; however the avenue of prostitution is still accessible. One may conclude from the criminal code that the government's purpose in regard to prostitution is to keep it off the streets and out of the public eye. There are many large municipalities who facilitate the off-street trade by means of licensing it and regulating it. In this case, laws against prostitution are rarely enforced. At the same time, Canadian politicians have almost entirely abolitionist views concerning prostitution, regardless of the fact that prostitution itself is legal. The "prostitution problem", which erupted in the early 1980's, was not so much concerning prostitution itself, but the spread of the street trade. The problem remains on the streets of major cities and 'slums' because it is not tolerated anywhere else. Political leaders maintain their abolitionist views and citizens voice complaints about the effects of street prostitution (noise, traffic congestion, litter and harassment).

It would be useful to include the excerpt from the Criminal Code you are speaking to

This would a good point to elaborate upon a bit more connecting it to larger issues of using law as a tool of regulation/ modes of social surveillance (Foucault, panopticon)

Moreover in a Judeo-Christian influenced society, the citizens uphold moral values, which are not uniform to other beliefs around the globe. Prostitution, on the most part, is viewed as socially un-acceptable and morally wrong. Prostitutes have been generalized in the Western world, although it is not a respectable position, many people have credited to the fact that prostitutes are often the victims. The Canadian contact sex service trade labels different 'ranges' of prostitution and prostitution motives, because it is the initiative of the women to involve her-self in the business. The scale goes from female sexual slavery (the gorilla pimp) and survival sex (sale of sexual services by

what implications does this have on sex workers (safety)

↳ what would you respond to someone who suggests that we live in a secular society

persons with very few other options, such as homeless youth and women in poverty) through to more 'middle class' forms of sex trade (including some street prostitution). However, the Standing Committee was not overly sensitive to these issues. The Canadian government does nevertheless offer social programs to assist prostitutes, yet women can only apply for this if they are exiting prostitution. Although prostitution is legal, the government and authorities' view on prostitution is mainly abolitionist. They provide no areas in which females are able to traffic their bodies according to the legality of the law.

What is particularly interesting about comparing Canada and Thailand is the irony that exists within their prostitution policies. In Thailand adult prostitution with an adult is technically illegal, theoretically punishable by up to 10 years in prison; however the practice of prostitution is almost entirely accepted, especially in brothel-type setting, which in Thai law carries a higher penalty. However these brothel-bars are flourishing within Patpong and Bangkok. In the Canadian system, the legislation developed a double jeopardy situation, which is a complete contradiction of the law. Prostitution is allowed in the privacy of one's own home, but they are not allowed to go to any designated area, like red-light districts, or brothel houses, to procure a girl. This leaves a sex industry in Canada that is still widely tolerated, however underground.

The sex industry in Thailand is one of the most famous sex industries of the world. Thailand is a country that has lured travelers for hundreds of years, with the promises of exotic delights. Selling sex is technically illegal, but buying sex is not, and rarely is anyone arrested in the Thai sex industry except ~~for the occasional child-offender~~. Unlike Canada, Thailand has a more visible and much more exotic industry.

Taking aside the specific legal differences in prostitution policy between Canada

and Thailand, what are the moral differences between the two countries? The most striking difference between them is the general acceptance of prostitution in Thailand compared to the still very traditional and very repressive Western attitude that discourages sexual business. It seems that the predominant opinion in Western society is that all prostitution hurts women. This leads to an incredible social stigma that surrounds prostitutes in Canada that does not affect prostitutes in Thailand. Prostitutes can be easily found all over the world, yet why do so many tourists flock to Bangkok just for sex? The most common response is that unlike Canadian prostitutes, Thai women really to enjoy their work. Thai girls do not feel as if they are selling away some sacred vestment, but more as if they are girlfriends for rent. Many Thai prostitutes are only interested in keeping one client at a time, so long as the client is paying for the girl's basic needs. This type of behavior is widely accepted in the tourist districts of Thailand, and these girls who service the farangs are part of an established subculture.

take this question up critically

this is your personal opinion!

avoid personal judgements

? Really problematic

you must explore the conditions (social, economic, political, class, etc) that create these subcultures - not just assuming they 'enjoy' sex.

What does the future hold for Canada and Thailand? Although Canada has recently been increasing criminalization policies, the effects of these policies are just now being looked at. In 1995 many provinces worked together to form the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Working Group on prostitution. The Working Group has been since trying to reform prostitution laws throughout Canada. The growing opinion is however that the problems of prostitution are not problems of social morality, but problems of social order, and accepting prostitution is the quickest way to control it. As far as Thailand goes, they may not have the technology or industry of the Western nations, but they are advanced enough to have already realized that sex for sale is not a threat. It seems as if the state of affairs will continue in Thailand, as they are now, for quite some time.

you have a good start but you need to expand your analysis further (see embedded notes) & remove your own personal judgements - see me if you have any questions. Furthermore, you also must engage w/ course materials & concepts which are stipulated in the assignment outline.

6.25/10